

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A door security latch comprising:
 - a jamb element, said jamb element further comprising:
 - a jamb base plate,
 - first constraining means for limiting the distance to which a door may be opened to a first opening distance, and
 - second constraining means for limiting the distance to which a door may be opened to a second distance being smaller than said first opening distance; and
 - a door element, said door element further comprising:
 - a door base plate,
 - engaging means for engaging either said first constraining means of said jamb element or said second constraining means of said jamb element or both said first constraining means and said second constraining means depending upon which of said constraining means is engaged, and
 - retaining means for maintaining said constraint means within said first engaging means and said second engaging means.
2. A door security latch, as defined in claim 1, wherein said engaging means comprises a projecting arm extending, at a

first end, out and angularly away from proximate the center of a front face of said door base plate to a distal end located at a point beyond a first lateral side of the perimeter of said door base plate and a free edge of a door, said arm having a given thickness.

3. A door security latch, as defined in claim 2, wherein said first constraining means comprises a first yoke, pivotally attached at its proximal end to lugs on a front face of said jamb base plate and having a pair of first yoke side rails substantially parallel to one another and joined by a first yoke distal rail at their distal ends, said first yoke side rails being spaced apart by a distance greater than said thickness of said arm but less than said diameter of said substantially spherical member, said first yoke side rails extending apart from one another at their proximal ends to a distance greater than said diameter of substantially spherical member.

4. A door security latch, as defined in claim 3, wherein said retaining means comprises a substantially spherical member at said distal end of said arm, said substantially spherical member having a diameter greater than said thickness of said arm.

5. A door security latch, as defined in claim 4, wherein said arm is pivotally attached to said door base plate.

6. A door security latch, as defined in claim 5, wherein said second constraining means comprises a second yoke having a pair of second yoke side rails having proximal and distal ends and being substantially parallel to one another and spaced apart at a distance slightly greater than the diameter of substantially spherical member, joined to one another at said distal ends by a second yoke distal rail, and being pivotally attached to said jamb base plate at an axis coinciding with the axis of attachment of said first yoke, such that, when in a closed state, said second yoke constrains said substantially spherical member closely, thereby preventing said door from being opened beyond a minimal distance.

7. A door security latch, as defined in claim 4, wherein said substantially spherical member has a flattened surface at a front portion thereof.

8. A door security latch, as defined in claim 7, wherein said arm is pivotally attached to said door base plate.

9. A door security latch, as defined in claim 8, wherein said second constraining means comprises a second yoke having a pair of second yoke side rails having proximal and distal ends and being substantially parallel to one another and spaced apart at a distance slightly greater than the diameter of substantially spherical member, joined to one another at said distal ends by a second yoke distal rail, and being pivotally attached to said jamb base plate at an axis coinciding with the axis of attachment of said first yoke, such that, when in a closed state, said second yoke constrains said substantially spherical member closely, thereby preventing said door from being opened beyond a minimal distance.

10. A door security latch, as defined in claim 4, wherein said substantially spherical member has a notch formed in a front portion thereof.

11. A door security latch, as defined in claim 10, wherein said arm is pivotally attached to said door base plate.

12. A door security latch, as defined in claim 11, wherein said second constraining means comprises a second yoke having a pair of second yoke side rails having proximal and distal ends and being substantially parallel to one another and spaced apart

at a distance slightly greater than the diameter of substantially spherical member, joined to one another at said distal ends by a second yoke distal rail, and being pivotally attached to said jamb base plate at an axis coinciding with the axis of attachment of said first yoke, such that, when in a closed state, said second yoke further comprising a lip, said lip adapted to engage said notch of said substantially spherical member, thereby preventing said door from being opened beyond a minimal distance.

13. A door security latch, as defined in claim 1 wherein said jamb element further comprises a tongue, said tongue being pivotally attached to said jamb base plate and adapted to be inserted between a free edge of a door and a door jamb to prevent said door from closing fully and thereby locking.

14. A door security latch, as defined in claim 1 wherein said jamb element further comprises a tongue, said tongue being pivotally attached to said jamb base plate and adapted to be inserted between a free edge of a door and a door jamb to prevent said door from closing fully and thereby locking.

15. A door security latch, as defined in claim 1 wherein said jamb element further comprises a tongue, said tongue being pivotally attached to said jamb base plate and adapted to be

inserted between a free edge of a door and a door jamb to prevent said door from closing fully and thereby locking.

16. A door security latch, as defined in claim 13, wherein said tongue is formed of at least one material from the group: a hard plastic and a rubber sheathed metal.

17. A door security latch, as defined in claim 14, wherein said tongue is formed of at least one material from the group: a hard plastic and a rubber sheathed metal.

18. A door security latch, as defined in claim 15, wherein said tongue is formed of at least one material from the group: a hard plastic and a rubber sheathed metal.